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Applicants : Tom Garrison and Robert Anderson
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REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings and indication of allowable subject matter. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. The amendments and remarks presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 and 10-31 are pending in the application. Claim 9 was previously cancelled. Claims 10-30 are allowed. Claims 4 and 5 were objected to but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claim 4 to be in independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that Claims 4 and 5 are now allowable.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS BASED ON 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,402,514 to Fischer et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,631,030 to von Weissenfluh and U.S. Patent No. 5,890,900 to Fischer et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse. Notwithstanding, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to more clearly define Applicants' invention which now calls for:

A dental wedge comprising:

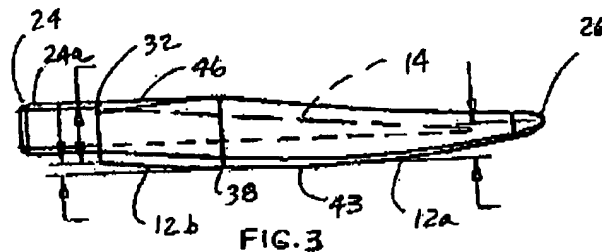
an elongate body having a lower surface, a distal end, and a proximal end tapering to said distal end, said distal end defining an insertion end for inserting the interproximal area between adjacent teeth, said elongate body having a first portion starting at said distal end, a second portion ending at said proximal end, and an intermediate portion between said first and second portions, said lower surface of

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said intermediate portion forming a lowermost surface of said elongate body, said first portion having a generally triangular-shaped cross-section, and said second portion having a generally trapezoidal-shaped cross-section and said first and second portions angled relative to said intermediate portion wherein said first and second portions are tilted upwardly relative to said lowermost surface.

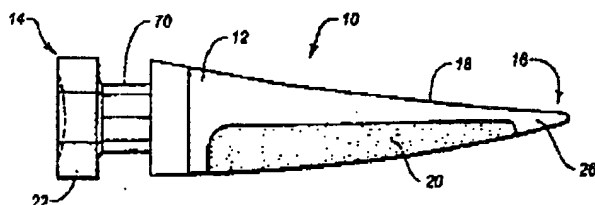
Applicants respectfully submit that neither Fischer nor von Weissenfluh discloses or suggest the claimed combination. For ease of illustration, Applicants refer to FIG. 3 of Applicants' invention, which is reproduced herein, where one embodiment of the dental wedge is illustrated and, further, illustrates the feature of the first and second portions being angled relative to the intermediate portion wherein the first and second portions are tilted upwardly relative to the lowermost surface of the elongate body.



Applicants respectfully submit that neither Fischer nor von Weissenfluh discloses or suggests the claimed combination. In each case, the lowermost portion of the elongate body is provided at the proximal end of the elongate body as shown in FIG. 2 of the Fischer reference and FIG. 2 of the von Weissenfluh reference, which are also both reproduced herein for the Examiner's reference.

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**FIG. 2**

Pat. No. 6,402,514 to Fischer

**Fig.2**

Pat. No. 4,631,030 to von Weissenfluh

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that even when combined, the references do not disclose or suggest the claimed combination. Furthermore, it would not be obvious to modify the reference to achieve the claimed combination.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and its dependent claims, namely Claims 2, 3, and 6-8, are patentably distinguishable over Fischer in view of von Weissenfluh or any other reference of record.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application and a Notice of Allowance of all claims, namely Claims 1-8 and 10-30.

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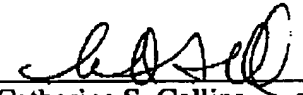
Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506 or at collins@vglb.com.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Van Dyke, Gardner, Linn & Burkhardt, LLP

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Date


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